

## Andrew Jackson to Willie Blount, November 14, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO WILLIE BLOUNT.1

1 Copy.

Camp Strother, November 14, 1813

*Sir:* It is with extreme pain I inform you that a turbulent and mutinous disposition has manifested itself in my Camp, from a quarter least expected.

Petition on petition has been handed from the officers of the different Brigade's containing statements of their privations and sufferings and requesting me to return into the settlements with my Division in order to give the men an opportunity to provide themselves with articles necessary for the campaign and to meet the provisions that were coming on. In reply to their representation of greivances, I made a general order acknowledging to my Division that their sufferings were known and felt by me, and that every exertion had been made by me both to prevent and relieve them that a number of beeves had been seen in the neighbourhood and meal expected hourly from Fort Deposit where I was informed there were ample supplies—that there were several of the wounded whose deaths would be inevitable if moved and further urged them not to cause the laurels they had so nobly and so bravely won to wither by a disgraceful return in the moment of victory. Limiting the time for departure to two days if provisions did not arrive, when we would all march and lay the blame at the door of those who merited it. Yesterday, as was expected, about forty five beeves were brought into camp. Still their murmurs were not silenced, but continued to increase until I was compelled to call a council of all the Field officers and Capts. in

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my Division; to these officers I stated that information which could be relied on had been given me that there were at Fort Deposit between 50 and 60,000 weight of meal and 266 barrels of flour. that upwards of 100 hogs were on the way which would be here tomorrow or the day after at farthest and after stating to them the impossibility of carrying on our baggage in consequence of having dispatched the waggons for meal and that we must either destroy or leave it after conjuring them not [to] move or leave their brave comrades who had fought and bled by their sides, after entreating them by their love of country and of glory not to abandon a campaign so gloriously begun without striking the finishing stroke and having the honor of its completion I dismissed them with a request that the officers of each Brigade would hold a separate consultation and report their determination. Genls Roberts' Brigade first reported their resolution to stay by their baggage their wounded and their Genl. until it could be accurately ascertained whether supplies would arrive or not and if they did not in the course of three or four days, that then they would return and meet it. Genl. Coffee's Brigade also reported that the half or the whole of the cavalry would remain if the camp was deserted by the Infantry, notwithstanding the permission they had had for half of the men to go in to Huntsville and feed their horses which were perishing. Both of these Brigade have my warmest approbation and highest praise and merit the applause and gratitude of their country for preferring privations and sufferings to disgrace.

Genl. Hall's Brigade then reported that after taking into consideration and weighing maturely all the circumstances they had determined by the vow of every officer in the Brigade with the exception of Genl. Hall himself to march back to meet the provisions at the same time recommending to me to permit the men to go to their homes and make preparations for the campaign and representing that if they were not permitted the soldiers would forcible desert. Such a determination was not expected from those who had been trained and disciplined under my command. I did think they would have followed me through every danger and hardship without a murmur they are the first to desert me. But the conduct of Genl. Hall is as usual, firm and humane, he says he will stay and die in the

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camp before he will move the wounded or destroy the baggage or sully the glory they have already required.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Acquired.